Vol. 4, No 2
June 50

SCI-TECH NEWS

The Official Bulletin of the

SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY GROUP
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

CHEMISTRY • PETROLEUM • ENGINEERING-AERONAUTICS • PUBLIC UTILITIES • PHARMACEUTICAL • METALS

VOLUME 4 JUNE 1950 No. 2

EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE SEA

Every year many thousands come from near and far to the famous shores of Atlantic City, to see its colorful boardwalk and hear the roar of the ocean against the sandy beach. This June, we hope to see YOU there, where we can combine the important business of the 1950 S.L.A. Convention with the pleasures of this famous resort.

The foremost attraction of course is the world renowned boardwalk, paralleling the ocean for eight miles, whose sixty feet of width provides the stroller with a maximum of sunshine. The ocean breeze, the sea reflected sun and the warm waters of the Gulf Stream make the climate ideal for strolling. Attractive shops, good restaurants offering all types of cuisine, and theaters showing first run features add to the enjoyment. At night spectacular electric signs blend with the lights of the towering hotels to make the boardwalk a veritable "Broadway-by-the-sea."

For those who come by car there are many interesting spots to be visited, after the convention, in this historic area of New Jersey, including Camden, Somers Point, Great Egg Harbor, and the Jersey Cape.

We'll be seeing you this June — "On the Boardwalk at Atlantic City."

THANK YOU

Our most optimistic print order for the March issue was far too small. We thought that after a year of our current format and multiple notices to all Group members the market was about saturated. However, with a big assist from our busy business manager, the record circulation of 310 for 1949 has jumped to over 370 at present.

We took the gamble of ordering a second printing of our March issue and have also been repaid for that, having more than paid the relatively higher charge from additional subscriptions. Due to increasing printing costs we are still not at the point of having enough money to publish all the worthwhile material available, so keep them coming. Show your copy to your non-subscribing friends or suggest that they write for a sample copy.

THE LETTERS COLUMN

Having put our foot in it the second time in the last couple issues by making writers unhappy over the publication of their letters, the letters-to-the-editor column will be drastically curtailed henceforth, that is, unless you have more to say for publication than in the past.

In order to put as much true public opinion as possible before the membership, we have published everything printable (you should see some of the deleted parts), including excerpts of general interest in letters to the Group chairman. We believe that the healthiest manifestation of democracy and progress is open discussion with frank expression of opinions. However, since your editor's sense of diplomacy seems to have failed, we are requesting that from now on all letters be labeled if not for publication, either over the writer's name, without signature or otherwise. We have found from experience that going to the trouble of writing back for permission to publish or asking for a re-write will usually result in no letter, so we will no longer rely on our judgment as to publishing, with or without name.

We sincerely hope that this policy will not entirely eliminate the letters column. Please do not let it. This is your only means of expression to the Group, other than at the annual business meetings. All opinions will be taken as the personal reaction of the writer and in no way should they be assumed to represent the views of the writer's employer unless so stated. Company names will not be published unless it is the specific desire of an Institutional member.

Drop us a line — for publication.

MICROCARDS

Did you receive the announcement of Technical Microcard Publishing Corp. (112 Liberty St., New York 6)? If not, write to them. You will find that the microcarding of sets of technical journals is rolling along in high gear. They are working in cooperation with the National Microcard Committee.

The list of sets now available includes: Berichte; Liebig's Annalen; Zeits. phys. Chem.; Beilstein. In process and prices quoted: Physik. Berichte; Physik. Zeits.; Zeits. anorg. Chem.; Zeits. anal. Chem.; Jour. prakt. Chem.; Naturwissenschaften. Proposed: Biochem. Zeits.; Chem. Fabrik; Kolloid Beihefte; Kolloid Zeits.; Monatshefte Chem.; Friedlaender. At present all are to be sold as complete sets only by the Technical Microcard Corp., but write to Mr. Rider directly (Wesleyan Univ., Middletown, Conn.) if you need partial sets. A schedule of prices increasing as the number of volumes decreases is being worked out. The publishers of microcards have the same problem with regard to breaking up solid sets that the second-hand periodical dealers have always had. If a valuable complete set is broken up, the parts must be sold at a higher individual price to avoid loss on the remaining unsalable parts. How-

SCI-TECH NEWS
Published 4 Times Annually
Subscription $1.50 the Calendar Year
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ever, with microcards the chances are that your incomplete book set can be sold at a better price than the complete set of cards.

A new portable A.C.-D.C. reader is also available, as well as the Standard model. Plans are continuing for current publication of technical journals, among the first to be the Official Gazette of the Patent Office.

SCI-TECH PROGRAM CORRECTIONS

Atlantic City—June 12-16, 1950

Please make the following changes in your Convention program as published in the March SCI-TECH NEWS:

Tuesday June 13, Afternoon—

Pharmaceutical Section:
Add—subject of Dr. Madeline Holland's paper, "A Widening Horizon."
Change—title of Mrs. M. P. Clark's paper to "Getting the Most from the Smaller Pharmaceutical Library."
Change—Miss Lowe's position to Librarian, Bristol-Myers Co., Medical Division, New York, N. Y.

Wednesday June 14, morning—

Chemistry Section:
Add—Breakfast and business meeting. Speaker (9:15-9:30): Mr. Ross H. Petty, Solid Propellant Information Agency, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University. "Literature Mechanics at the Solid Propellant Information Agency."
Metals Section:
Remove—question mark on breakfast and business meeting.

Wednesday afternoon—

Metals Section:
Remove—paper by Mrs. Alberta Adams.
Change—"Selective" to "Selected" in title of paper by Mrs. Vivian MacDonald.
Add—Miss Caroline W. Lutz, Librarian, Research Laboratories Division, General Motors Corp., Detroit. "Some Sources of Engineering Information."
Petroleum Section:
Add — Business and reorganization meeting (2:30-4:30).

Friday June 16—

Add—libraries open for visits
Socony-Vacuum Labs. Paulsboro, N. J.
Betty Brown Porter, Librarian.

Notes from the Sci-Tech Advisory Board Meeting

Mar. 11, 1950 Statler Hotel Washington, D. C.

Local Group-Association Group Coordination: As Miss Margaret Hilligan, Chapter Liaison Officer, had pointed out at the Association Advisory Council meeting the previous day, there is no authority making local Chapter Groups responsible to or coordinated with the Association Groups. It was thought that some written provision should be made, either in the Group Procedures Manual in process or in the Association by-laws, at least for the Group Chairman to be kept informed of all local Group actions and plans. For example it was mentioned that the Washington Sci-Tech Group plans to make a subject index to the PB reports from Vol. 6 on, but the Group Chairman had no direct information about it. (Editor's note: A commercial firm, Technical Information Service, Nina Holt Bradshaw, Director; 732 Woodward Bldg., Washington, D. C., is working on similar project in classified form; volume on agricultural chemicals just delivered).

Manual for Sci-Tech Libraries: Miss Fannie Simon, Chairman of the Publication Board, reported that the Association Executive Board thinks it unnecessary to circularize entire membership in regard to sale of the Manual. Discussion followed on making it self-sustaining or giving to Institutional members. December report showed 667 Institutional members, 4956 total SLA, 1609 Sci-Tech Group. (Group was circularized in ballot mailing.) Committee hoped to have final copy for Publication Board by April.

Metals Section: Proposed projects; compiling a list of technical societies in the metallurgical and engineering fields, with their publications; compiling a list of metallurgical libraries in the U. S. and Canada.

Public Utilities Section: Projects: (1) Subject Heading List for Public Utility Libraries—hoped to be completed by Convention time. (2) Classification Scheme for Public Utility Libraries—hoped to have an analysis of answers to survey prepared for Convention. (3) Publicity Methods used in Public Utility Libraries—project chairman expects to have data collected prepared for Convention. Preliminary list of sources of investment in public utility field was prepared in response to request of Financial Group for revision of Sources of Investment Information.

Membership Committee: Mrs. Mary Herren Bellman, Chairman, recommends a Group Directory. Need was agreed upon but decision deferred.

Convention Papers: Discussion of publication and sale of papers. Metals Section would like to have them available for sale at Convention and later, and have proceeds for Section work. Matter was taken up with SLA Executive Board during Sci-Tech meeting by Miss Price and Miss Hilligan, who reported back that SPECIAL LIBRARIES editor hopes to have information on possibility of Proceedings issue by July 1 this year. If it is not to be published, Sections may distribute their papers after clearance with Association Publication Board, and since there is no present regulation, may charge for them. This is not to set a precedent and the Group is to ask that the Association draw up some regulation for future procedure.

(Continued on page 4, column 2)

SUMMARIES OF PAPERS SCHEDULED FOR SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AT ATLANTIC CITY

METALS SECTION

Tuesday June 13, Afternoon. Symposium, "Sources of Information." Part I.

"The Technical Society as a Library Resource"
Mrs. Marjorie R. Hyslop editor, METALS REVIEW.

SUMMARY: Will primarily cover three societies, The Institute of Metals, The Iron and Steel Institute, and the American Society for Metals. The value of their publications to libraries will be illustrated by an analysis of their publications, classifying them into some six types: (1) archive journals; (2) practical or production periodicals; (3) news organs; (4) abstract journals; (5) handbooks; and (6) special publications such as symposiums, reports, books, etc.

Will give detailed information concerning the abstract journals of these three societies, attempting to differentiate between their coverage and type of service, and supplement the analysis with similar information on the metallurgically important material in CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS.

"Engineering Societies as Sources of Information."
Ralph H. Phelps, Director, Engineering Societies Library

SUMMARY: With the hope of establishing better understanding and, therefore, better use of the publications of engineering societies, the talk will cover, from the viewpoint of engineering societies, some of the publication problems that have developed as a result of the broadened scope of engineering, its more specialized nature, the great growth of the engineering profession and the increased cost of publication.

Publications of some of the leading engineering societies such as the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and their British counterparts will be dealt with in general terms in the talk. More detailed information about the publications to be available for reference.

Will cover Engineering Index and Science Abstracts, and will report on the Study of Physics Abstracting by the American Institute of Physics and on activities of UNESCO and the National Research Council in the field of abstracting and indexing.

Wednesday, June 14, Afternoon. Symposium "Sources of Information." Part II.

"Publications and Services Offered by the American Iron and Steel Institute."
Mrs. Margaret Fuller, Librarian, American Iron and Steel Institute

SUMMARY: The paper will include first a short history of American Iron and Steel Institute, second a few words about current activities of the Institute and the type of help given by the various departments. Next, and probably of the most interest to librarians, a description of the publications, including handbooks and manuals, periodicals, special publications and the monthly statistical reports. Fourth and last, a summary of material available in the library, including foreign publications.

"Selected Sources of Information in the Non-Ferrous Field"
Mrs. Vivian J. MacDonald, Librarian, Aluminum Co. of America.

SUMMARY: Will discuss the publications of a number of the important non-ferrous societies including the Aluminum Research Institute, American Zinc Institute, Copper and Brass Research Association, Lead Industries Association, Magnesium Association, Non-ferrous Ingot Metal Industries and Tin Research Institute.

"Some Sources of Engineering Information"
Miss Caroline W. Lutz, Librarian, Research Laboratories Division, General Motors Corp.

SUMMARY: Will cover a number of engineering sources including: Institute of the Aeronautical Sciences, Royal Aeronautical Society, Society of Automotive Engineers, American Institute of Physics, Physical Society of London, Society for Experimental Stress Analysis, and the Royal Society of London.

Will also report on a system for procuring preprints of papers to be presented at meetings of a number of societies. A method for circulating and sorting such papers will be outlined.

PHARMACEUTICAL SECTION

Tuesday June 13, Afternoon.

"Getting the Most from the Smaller Pharmaceutical Library"
Mildred P. Clark, Librarian, Winthrop-Stearns Inc., New York.

SUMMARY: Shortages of time, reference material and space are main problems in the small to average-sized pharmaceutical library. One library's methods of abstracting, cataloging, filing, and supplying reference and other material from not unlimited resources are summarized. Where possible, illustrative material is displayed. In brief, this paper describes how one library makes the most of its resources.

"The Role of the Pharmaceutical Library as a Business Reference Service."
Annis Tuthill Schlesier, Assistant Librarian, Schering Corp., Bloomfield, N. J.

SUMMARY: A most important part of the service given by a pharmaceutical library is the aid and information it can give to the business element of the company.

There are information sources and reference tools which are, in a sense, made to order for each of the needs and interests of management, advertising, and sales.

This paper will describe these tools and sources of information and show how they may be used to their fullest advantage.

"Information Sources of Use to the Pharmaceutical Librarian"
Doris Lowe, Librarian, Bristol-Myers Co., Medical Division, New York.

SUMMARY: The pharmaceutical librarian is confronted with the problem of locating quickly information pertinent to almost any phase of the pharmaceutical industry. The librarian's searches may vary widely in scope, depending upon the nature of the subject. Not only must the librarian be acquainted with sources of information in the fields of medicine, chemistry, biology, and related sciences, but also with sources of information pertaining to the various aspects of the industry, such as engineering, law. This paper discusses various sources of information available to the librarian in these fields.

CHEMISTRY SECTION

Tuesday, June 13, Evening. Symposium on "Services and Information Offered by the Various Chemical Associations" Part I

Helen Dikeman, Research Librarian, Plastics Division, Monsanto Chemical Co., Springfield, Mass.

American Association for the Advancement of Science
American Chemical Society
American Institute of Chemists
Chemical Foundation, Inc.
Society of Plastic Industry
Society of Plastic Engineers
Plastic Manufacturer's Association
Chemists Club
Iota Sigma Pi

Part II

Dr. Else L. Schulze, Research Librarian, The Procter and Gamble Co., Ivorydale, Cincinnati, Ohio

Association of Consulting Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Inc.
Manufacturing Chemists Ass'n. of the U. S.
American Institute of Chemical Engineers
Chemical Market Research Ass'n.
National Farm Chemurgic Council
Alpha Chi Sigma Fraternity
American Oil Chemists Society

Part III

Dorris Hall, Research Librarian, Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio.

Chemist Advisory Council, Inc.
Italian American Chemical Society
National Research Council
Phi Lambda Upsilon Honorary Chemical Soc., Inc.
Societe de Chimie Industriell, American Section
Society of Chemical Industry, American Section
Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society.
Rubber Manufacturers Association

ENGINEERING-AERONAUTICS SECTION

Tuesday, June 13, Evening.

"The Role of Libraries in Military Research Laboratories"

Wm. E. Jorgensen, Librarian, U. S. Navy Electronics Laboratory, San Diego, California

SUMMARY: This paper is concerned with the role of technical libraries in support of research and development programs in military laboratories. The scope of the National Military Establishment research and development program and its effect on libraries is discussed in terms of the requirements for library materials and services, ways by which libraries can meet these needs, and some criteria by which to judge the effectiveness of libraries in this program.

(Summaries of other papers not received).

NEW CHIEF OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS SCIENCE DIVISION

Dr. Raymond L. Zwemer, Executive Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Research Council since 1947, has been appointed Chief of the Science Division of the Library of Congress and Consultant in Biology. Dr. Zwemer will assume his duties in the Science Division on July 1, 1950 and started serving as Consultant in Biology on June 1.

The Library's Science Division was established in the Reference Department on June 3, 1949. The division is responsible for planning and conducting the reference service for the Library's scientific and technological collections and for advising in the acquisition and cataloging of scientific and technological literature.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (Cont. from p. 2)

Paid Ads in SCI-TECH NEWS: After discussion, tabled until annual business meeting. (Editors note: We're ag'in it. Financial problems of subscriptions alone are more than enough for volunteer help to handle. However, there is no law against inserting wants and exchanges in letters to the editor, for which we reserve one full page.)

Change of title from "Group" to "Division": Petition recommending same is to be presented to Association Executive Board before Convention, with copy to all Group chairmen.

Group Structure Committee: Procedure Manual to be presented at annual business meeting. (Proposed form sent to Section and Committee chairmen April 25th for comment and addition of individual job analysis.)

Salary Survey: The Chairman has appointed Miss Margaret Firth, United Shoe Machinery Co., Boston, and Miss Valeria Elersich, Standard Oil Co. of Ohio, Cleveland, as a committee for this project.

READING AND SEARCHING PATENTS

(Summary of a lecture by Norman St. Landau of Johnson and Johnson Co., New Brunswick, N. J. before a group of chemists in March 1950.)

The object of the talk was to instruct the chemist on how to dissect a patent to obtain technical information from it and also on where and how to locate patents on a given subject.

Analysis of patents reveals that most of them may be divided into ten parts. (1) The drawing: one or more illustrations, also the signature of the attorney in right hand corner of each sheet. (2) The heading: showing (a) date of patent, (b) number of patent, (c) name of inventor and his residence, (d) assignee, (e) application date and number, (f) patent class. (3) Body of text: (a) introduction —furnishes some idea about the subject matter, (b) discussion of prior art: defects in prior art are stated and how new development is an improvement, (c) object of invention: indicates what the invention will accomplish, (d) statement of invention: this summary is the meat of the patent disclosure, (e) detailed description of invention: includes description of drawing and discussion of equivalents, and listing of examples, (f) mode of operation of invention, (g) claims: in U. S. patents the first claim is frequently **not** the broadest. The claims are more important to determine possible infringement, but of little value to assemble technical information, (h) list of references cited against application.

To abstract a patent it is suggested that these parts be examined in the following order: statement of invention (3d); if there is no "statement," synthesize one by combining the object of the invention (3c) with the gist of the claims (3g); the operation of the subject matter of the invention (3f); the description of the drawing (3e).

Several sources of information for locating patents are available at the Patent Office in Washington only. These are: (1) classified search files with index to the classification; (2) index files showing all outstanding U. S. patents issued originally to each assignee and inventor; (3) assignee and inventor files—includes not only U. S. patents, but foreign patents and published literature gathered by the examiner to aid him in his work.

Other sources of information are the large libraries throughout the country which file U.S. and foreign patents and patent journals showing a claim or abstract.

The following rules will be helpful in locating a certain U. S. Patent: (1) check **Official Gazette** for patents issued within the past few months; (2) if exact title or exact date of issue is the only clue concerning the patent, see **Official Gazette** and the Commissioner's Reports. They are only publications listing U. S. patents by title and exact date of issuance; (3) consult **Chemical Abstracts** for chemical or semi-chemical patents.

If a group of related patents is to be located, the following types of searches are made: (1) assignment or index search — shows what patents are or were assigned to a certain party; (2) preliminary search—to obtain knowledge of the closest patents in point (only patent search that can be based entirely upon **Chem. Abstracts**; (3) infringement search—very extensive and covers mainly U. S. patents issued in last 17 years; (4) validity search—to determine whether a patentee was legally entitled to a certain patent—covers all sources that may have a bearing upon the situation; (5) state of art search —should cover both U. S. and foreign sources to provide a knowledge of pertinent subject matter.

1950 FALL MEETING OF ACS DIVISION OF CHEMICAL LITERATURE

Chemical Communication and Chemical Literature History to be Featured

Aspects of "chemical communication" will be discussed in a group of papers at the Chicago meeting in September, according to Robert S. Casey, secretary of the Division, who is in charge of this symposium. Dr. M. G. Mellon, of Purdue, in a paper entitled "A Course on Chemical Writing," will cover his more than two decades of experience in teaching chemical literature classes. James M. Crowe of the Chem. Eng. News staff is scheduled to present a paper on recent advances in the graphic arts, and Paul G. Lauffer, chairman of the Committee on Odor Description of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, will discuss terminology for odor description and the necessity for including such description with other properties of new chemical compounds.

S. A. Durban of the Great Lakes Carbon Company will make a novel presentation demonstrating the electric wire or tape recorder and proposing a method for the presentation of oral reports. The policies, procedures, and ethical aspects of the "quality control" of technical and scientific reports and papers will be dealt with in a paper by B. H. Weil, of the Georgia Tech Engineering Experiment Station. Other presentations will cover the latest trends in graphical presentation and visual aids, person-to-person communication, and the criteria of good text for papers, books, reports, etc.

Julian F. Smith reports that a joint symposium on the history of chemical literature will be presented by the Division of History of Chemistry and the Division of Chemical Literature. The program, which is currently being arranged under the general chairmanship of H. M. Leisester, will include a statistical analysis of certain aspects of the chemical literature, to be presented by Fletcher S. Boig of Northwestern University.

WHAT SCI-TECH MEMBERS ARE DOING IN—

Connecticut Valley Chapter

An informal and organizational meeting of the Sci-Tech Group of the Connecticut Valley Chapter was held on April 26, 1950 at 1:30 P. M. at Wilma Zimmerman's apartment at 954 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, Conn. Those present were Helen Dikeman, Eulalia Madden, Elinore Donlan, Angela Chase, Wilma Zimmerman, Lois Ward, Marie Bozenhard and Robert Sale. Muriel Williams also attended in her capacity as Chapter President.

Several who could not be present had written letters or sent word to the effect that they would be interested in participating in Sci-Tech activities. These included Mary Freney, Sylvia DeSantis, Ruth Giandonato and Jim Keenan. Mention was made of four more who had not been contacted who might be interested in joining the group.

Since the majority of those present wanted to organize informally they proceeded to do so. Helen Dikeman of Monsanto Chemical Co., Plastics Division, Springfield 2, Mass., was elected president and Marie Bozenhard was elected vice-president and secretary. It was decided to hold at least one meeting a year.

The next meeting of the Group will be held in September when they will visit the American Brass Company and Bristol Company libraries in Waterbury in the afternoon, then have dinner together and discuss library methods. Miss Madden and Miss Donlan will be the hostesses. Chapter members who do not belong to the Sci-Tech Group are also invited to this meeting.

It was decided to take no Group action on the "Union List of Serials" but several of the individuals present volunteered to work on the Committee with Angela Chase, the chairman.

Helen Dikeman, S-T representative will have the minutes of the national Sci-Tech meetings reproduced and will send them out to Group members in the Chapter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Pittsburgh Chapter

On January 31, 1950 the Science-Technology Group of the Pittsburgh Chapter, S.L.A., held an open dinner meeting at the College Club. Fifty-three attended the dinner and sixty the meeting.

The program was a symposium on the subject, "What I Expect From My Librarian," from the academic, business, industrial, research and medical point of view. Five men, each an expert in his own field, spoke for 12 minutes each on this topic.

Dr. Alexander Silverman, Head of the Chemistry Department at the University of Pittsburgh, with his characteristic wit substituted "a lazy man" for "I" in the subject of the evening WHAT I EXPECT FROM MY LIBRARIAN. Dr. Silverman calls on his librarian for information, abstracts, patents, bibliographies, pamphlets, Departmental reprints, routing of journals, attention being called to books pertaining to his interests, and for interlibrary loans. He also praised the cooperation between the libraries in the Pittsburgh district.

Mr. Kenneth Hewitt, Assistant Vice-President in charge of the Investment Research Department, Mellon National Bank and Trust Company, gave a comprehensive description of the personal attributes needed by a librarian and emphasized the following requirements:

1. Professional training plus ability to bring information quickly.
2. Specific knowledge of the major interests of one's company so that one not only knows the answer to a question but can anticipate questions.
3. The ability to sift the flood of information for the valuable and the useful.
4. The development and maintenance of good relations with other libraries in order to augment your own collection.
5. Good relations with the personnel of the company. The capabilities of the librarian and resources of the library must be sold to the personnel.
6. A system of throwing out, discarding, or weeding out your collection so it does not envelop you.
7. The ability to train employees. Efficiency cannot be achieved with a large turn-over in assistants.
8. Close contact with the Personnel Dept. so that they know what kind of help the library needs and as a result the "dregs" are not relegated to the library.
9. Non-acceptance of jobs which the library cannot do well. Have the capacity to produce before doing so.

Mr. C. L. Rumberger, General Manager of the Food Research and Quality Control Division, H. J. Heinz Company, read an interesting paper. Today when our civilization is being built upon science, a good scientific library with a good librarian is a first line of offense. The librarian's responsibilities are:

1. Keep up to date with the latest information.
2. Tabulate facts.
3. Make recommendations for the purchase of new books.
4. Develop a cooperative attitude.
5. Represent a personality that attracts.
6. Practice patience, tact, and a "sweet reasonableness."
7. Be aggressive in advising the personnel of the latest acquisitions by suggesting books and attaching reviews.
8. Classify the personnel into groups of like responsibilities for the distribution of information.
9. Accept project assignments.
10. Keep the library catalogue.

Mr. Joseph Wiley, Industrial Analyst, U. S. Bureau of Mines, Director of Synthetic Fuels Research, which department abstracts bulletins, files foreign documents, and makes bibliographies, requires the following attributes of his librarian:

1. Technical training.
2. Knowledge of foreign languages.
3. Research bent of mind.
4. Knowledge of filing and indexing.

Dr. C. W. W. Elkin, Past Chairman of the Library Board, Allegheny General Hospital, Library Advisor of the Pittsburgh Academy of Medicine, and President of the Library Committee of the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, stated the minimum standards of a hospital library and then gave the following duties of a qualified hospital librarian:

1. Custodian of library contents.
2. Cataloguing and indexing for reference work.
3. Acquaintance with the rapid advances in the medical field.
4. Selection of the most useful and best books for the collection.
5. Answering telephone and written queries for information.

The meeting was then thrown open for questions.

Mr. Cibella asked how a library can be given credit for answering questions which have been relayed to the library. Mr. Hewitt felt an anticipation of questions would help.

Miss Garland asked if special libraries should spend time answering personal reference questions which did not pertain to the business of the company. This was generally conceded to be ethical and should be charged to selling the library.

Dr. Fertig questioned the panel members on the status and salary that business allots librarians. It was conceded that the departmental status that Mrs. MacDonald receives from the Aluminum Company of America is to be desired and it is hoped that as libraries become an older part of organizations their recognition will increase.

Dr. Turner, Director of the Research and Development Division of the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company and an interested guest, asked what means industry has of letting librarians know of its needs and scopes. Mellon Bank has its new members visit the library and the librarian can then learn their special interests. Technical reports and company minutes also give the scope of the company work and consequently the needs.

Cleveland Chapter

The most important event of the month of April for the Cleveland Chapter was the SLA exhibit at the Electrochemical Society's convention on April 19-22. The display, planned by Meredith Wright, Alice Knight, Mary Evalyn Crookston, Elizabeth Barrett, and Val Elersich, drew considerable attention from registrants. The central poster carried an eye-catching picture of an attractive librarian, with the caption: "Do You Want a 'Girl Friday' who . . . " followed by a list of four ways in which a librarian can be of help. On one side of this poster was a smaller one listing the SLA Groups under the heading "5,000 Subject Specialists." On the other side was a flow chart showing the functions of, and groups served by, special librarians. About 100 copies of a bibliography of references pertinent to the Society's symposia were distributed along with a considerable amount of SLA literature. Copies of SCI-TECH NEWS were also on display. It is hoped to have the exhibit on display at the SLA convention, as an example of what Chapters can do to promote the Association.

Miss Elersich, our Cleveland correspondent, is also giving a fine example of what Sci-Tech Chapter representatives can do for the Group. For the past season she has been contributing a page of Sci-Tech news and notes to the Chapter Bulletin, the above paragraph being part of her April page.

STUDY OF PHYSICS ABSTRACTING

The final report on this project (see SCI-TECH NEWS, Dec., 1949, p. 3) carrying its conclusions and recommendations is still in tentative form, although the committee completed its active work at the end of 1949. A condensed version is planned for publication in the AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS this fall. Meanwhile, a list of approximately 800 titles of journals of physics interest resulting from the Study's inquiries will probably be published by the Office of Technical Services and a list of 143 abstracting and indexing services of physics interest appeared in the May issue of AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICS.

DIVISION OF CHEMICAL LITERATURE
of the
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Houston, Texas, March 26 to 30, 1950
Detroit, Mich., April 18 to 20, 1950

SEARCHING THE LITERATURE FOR AN INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL ORGANIZATION

Martin M. Padwe, Jefferson Chemical Co., Inc.

The two chief functions of an industrial chemical library are to keep the company's Technical and Research Department informed concerning recent literature on the subjects of interest and to prepare formal patent and literature surveys.

The first function is fulfilled by searching current literature and patent publications and maintaining an abstract file based on pertinent material found therein. The second function is fulfilled by the preparation of formal patent and literature searches which vary in scope and form from a mere bibliography to an extensive abstract type of search. Four primary types of searches described are Pre-R (Pre-Research), Pre-R-Ab (Pre-Research-Abstract), Complete Literature Search, and Resume Type Search. Sources checked in preparing each type of search are given. Depending on the length of the search, there may be included subject, author-patentee, and/or numerical patent indexes. The desirability of summarizing the findings from the literature in tabular form and of appending sections listing data on the physical and thermodynamic properties of compounds is also discussed.

* * * *

With this sample of the meeting at Houston, we move on to the main session of the Division at Detroit.

Those who traveled to Detroit to hear the 22 papers of the Symposium on Chemical Literature Techniques were abundantly rewarded with practical information. The papers were devoted to information sources employed in conducting searches and the methods of extracting the data.

E. J. Crane, in a paper on the use of CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, emphasized that the human element is involved in the preparation of indexes and abstracts and it is therefore necessary to use all chemical abstract journals in search work. He stressed the fact that the abstracts in C.A. are of the informational, non-critical type and that indexes are compiled from original publications. Subjects, not words, are indexed in C. A.

A knowledge of the evolution of chemical nomenclature as basic to any comprehensive literature search was discussed by Ernest Huntress of M.I.T. in his paper reviewing the history of chemical nomenclature since 1787. Due to the intricacies of current terminology as well as other obstacles, Dr. Smith, in his paper on indexing, stressed that the searcher must comprehend the mental processes of the indexer and the abstractor if he would successfully circumvent the obstacles to hunting in the various indexes. Other difficulties in using indexes were pointed out by T. E. R. Singer in his comparison of U. S. and British index entries. Differences in spelling, use of different terms to designate the same thing, and cases where the same words have different meanings in the two countries are disconcerting features to the searcher. The relation of the abstract to the original paper was considered by G. Malcolm Dyson. He defined a useful abstract as one containing definite subject information, author and reference citations, complete numerical data, procedures and methods, compounds and formulas contained in the original paper. Where the line should be drawn in transferring the concepts in the abstract to the index represents a compromise between a complete and a practical index.

Searching techniques as applied to the more familiar literature and special classes of literature were thoroughly discussed and comprised the bulk of the papers. Spitzer's excellent paper on the searching of German chemical literature gave practical suggestions for conducting a search. Mr. Spitzer discussed briefly the sources of German information, terminology and spelling, and offered the following rules for making a search: (1) analyze the problem and determine the scope of the search; (2) prepare a list of subject headings and key words; (3) use bibliographies already prepared, thus it is wise to work back from the present to the earlier literature; (4) always consult original references; (5) confer regularly with the search originator to determine if the search is progressing in the right direction; (6) know when to stop.

Techniques for obtaining information from chemical patents were described in two papers by Joseph Fleischer. He outlined the component parts of a patent and their importance in the literature search, concluding that the specific example portion of the patent is the most significant. Methods of locating patents in the Search Room of the Patent Office were detailed, as well as the intricate classification system. The second paper outlined the classification of patents in foreign patent offices; foreign patent office publications were listed and discussed as well as supplementary aids in searching foreign chemical patents.

Government documents searching can not be done well by routine methods, said Norman T. Ball. It requires consultation with special librarians and subject experts. Methods for finding research and development reports were stressed, and the conventional sources for finding and obtaining documents were mentioned.

Interesting problems presented to an information department in the medicinal field included finding answers to queries concerning folk remedies known only by vernacular name, tracking down and identifying prescription specialties and chemicals indicated in foreign prescriptions, and elucidating references to Merck literature, which are often confused due to the separate German and American companies.

Special searching is required of the less familiar sources of chemical information. Less familiar periodicals (covered by M. G. Mellon) must be searched by annual and cumulative indexes or page by page searching. Theses and dissertations are important but inadequately indexed. Some sources for locating these, mentioned by Eleanor Marr, are: Library of Congress, University lists, Bolton's "Select Bibliography of Chemistry," the catalog of dissertations of the Bibliotek National, documentation centers and Union Lists published for France, U. S., India, South Africa, etc. Miss Marr recommended that theses and dissertations should be made available by compiling Union Lists for each country, by establishing centers to furnish microfilms of these

items, and by establishing one International Center for this type of literature.

Some of the pitfalls of surveying the older chemical literature, 1750-1875, were discussed by G. M. Dyson. Those to be encountered are multiple publication, anonymity, and short runs of obsolete journals.

The best sources for ascertaining the composition and supplies of trade-mark chemicals were considered by H. Bennett. Mary Alexander listed as guides to unpublished data personal correspondence, society meetings, mimeographed matter printed for limited circulation, abandoned patent applications, theses and dissertations. The technical trade literature comprising trade journals, house organs, catalogs, books, bulletins, data sheets, etc., contain information concerning specific end-uses which is not found in the more formal literature. Mr. L. E. Cheyney informed the group how to acquire this material and how to organize it for use. Lorna Ferris said that house organs are of chemical interest and may be located through the "Directory of House Organs" published by Printers Ink, 2nd Ed., 1947. Additional information on house organs is listed under "Magazine Notes" in INDUSTRIAL ARTS INDEX. Market information facts and figures were ably discussed by John Skeen, who analyzed the contributions of the trade journals and government sources. Our past-chairman Lucy Lewton described the many publications of the S.L.A. and indicated how these facilitated searching. M. W. Miller considered the FIAT reviews, which report the German technical advances from 1939-1946.

Subject indexes to the Bibliography of Scientific and Industrial Reports (volumes 1-12) covering reports on CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS are being prepared by Technical Information Service, 732 Woodward Building, Washington 5, D. C. Specific volumes already prepared include "Agricultural Chemicals" and "Analytical Chemistry" ($5.00 each); in preparation are volumes on "Chemical Engineering and Equipment," "Detergents," "Drugs and Pharmaceuticals," "Dyes," "Inorganic Chemicals," "Ordnance Chemicals," "Paint, Varnishes, and Lacquers," "Plastics and Plasticizers," "Miscellaneous Chemicals," and "Patents — Chemicals and Allied Products."

SELECTED ABSTRACTS

An examination of scientific periodicals. STANDARDIZATION Jan. 1950, 11-12. W. H. Cady.

An investigation of 25 scientific journals was made to determine whether publishers were systematically following American Standard Z39.1-1943 which prescribes a uniform location for all important reference data, such as the date, volume, and issue, the numbering of pages, table of contents, and the names of authors and titles of papers. The data indicates that publishers are aware of systematic arrangement of the reference data.

Brown's "Subject Classification." REV. DOCUMENTATION **17:** 56-63 (1950). J. D. Stewart.

A study of this highly practical scheme which is capable of expansion to meet modern technical and scientific developments.

Cover sheet for technical memoranda: a technique in information exchange. PROC. INST. RADIO ENGINEERS **37:** 912-913 (1949). R. C. Mathes.

An account is given of the origin and use of a routine for disseminating new technical information and ideas rapidly and flexibly through the engineering and research organization of Bell Telephone Laboratories.

English-language abstracts of Russian scientific and technical literature. INFORMATION (A.S.L.I.S.) **3:** 10-13, 31 (Spring 1949). A. L. Gunn.

A survey based upon a 3 months sample was made of 16 abstracting services to determine to what extent scientists can rely on abstracting journals to keep abreast of published work in the Russian language. Of these abstracting journals CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS (Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 18, 19), BRITISH ABSTRACTS (A II, A III), and PHYSICS ABSTRACTS (B. Electrical Engineering) give a fair coverage in the designated subdivisions. The bulk of the material is drawn from 15 cited Russian journals. Fields other than the above receive scant coverage or none at all. Exceptions are the fields covered by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau abstracting publications, certain technical journals carrying an abstract section, and the publications of large companies.

Committee on organization of information. AMER. DOCUMENTATION **1:** 24-34 (Winter 1950).

In 1948 the C.O.I. was formed and its members decided to exchange bibliographical notes prepared on punched cards. A selection from the collection is presented and forms a bibliography of 37 references on the organization of information.

Die Genfer Nomenklatur in Chiffren und ihre Erweiterung auf Ringverbindungen. (The Geneva nomenclature in ciphers and its extension to ring compounds). W. Gruber. ANGEWANDTE CHEMIE **61:** 429-431 (1949).

This article is an abstract of a booklet obtainable from Verlag Chemie GmbH. The author reviews the previous efforts to devise a classification system for organic compounds. Several examples of the application of the proposed system are given. The advantages for this system are: (1) for a given compound there is only one possible cipher, which may be easily derived from the composition; (2) the compounds are so arranged that they can be found and sorted by unskilled assistants; (3) derivatives can be found near the basic compound; (4) the rules of Geneva nomenclature are retained.

The field scientific liaison work of UNESCO. UNESCO Publ. No. 361, 67 pp., Paris, 1949.

The booklet describes the field science cooperation office system which is one of the most vital and useful of UNESCO's scientific activities. It gives detailed reports of scientific liaison work in progress, in the fields of both pure and applied science, in all parts of the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

May I take this opportunity to congratulate you on the splendid issue of SCI-TECH NEWS received recently. On page one you ask "what type of conventions"? I am replying since this sounds as if you wanted to hear from your readers.

In March, 1949 the New York chapter of SLA held a Spring Institute which seemed to me the most valuable convention I had ever attended. There were meetings on Filing, Administrative and Job Classifications, Acquisition of Materials, Telephone Techniques, Library Manuals, etc. In each meeting a moderator presided and two specialists talked. There was some discussion from the floor (prearranged or otherwise) and the sessions proved useful and practical, provided ideas to help the special librarian with everyday problems.

I guess I am trying to say that I vote for a convention that will help with practical daily problems. Let's omit speeches by big names, outside the library field.

Florence Fuller Mason,
New York, N. Y.